

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 SS-20 EB-11 RSC-01 /058 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPE:ACALBRECHT
APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY
EB/OT/TA:WBARRACLOUGH
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EUR: MR. HARTMAN
C: HSONNENFELDT
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S/S - SRGAMMON

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Z 042248Z APR 74 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL ACAPULCO FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 068527

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TOSEC 95

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, EEC, GATT
SUBJECT: GATT ARTICLE 24.6 NEGOTIATIONS WITH EC

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE ACTING SECRETARY & SCOWCROFT

SECRETARY SHULTZ PLANS TO CHAIR A CABINET-LEVEL MEETING
ON 24.6 SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 5 AT 4:30 P.M. WE UNDERSTAND
THAT BILL EBERLE MAY INSIST ON AUTHORITY TO TELL THE
EUROPEANS THAT UNLESS A SETTLEMENT IS REACHED BY FRIDAY,
APRIL 12 THE US WILL START PUBLIC PROCEEDINGS LEADING TO
RETALIATION ON MONDAY, APRIL 15.

WE PLAN TO RESIST ANY SUCH AUTOMATIC DEADLINE OR ULTIMATUM
TO THE EUROPEANS AT THIS SENSITIVE MOMENT IN OUR RELATIONS.
THERE IS NO NEED TO BOX OURSELVES IN. WE ARE CLOSE TO A
SATISFACTORY SOLUTION WITH DIFFERENCES ON ONLY A FEW
PRODUCTS. FURTHERMORE, SCHEEL HAS WRITTEN TO YOU ABOUT
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THE EXTRAORDINARY EC PROCEDURES HE INITIATED AT THE

APRIL 2 COUNCIL MEETING TO ENSURE A RAPID AND SATISFACTORY SOLUTION PRIOR TO THE NEXT COUNCIL SESSION IN MAY. IT IS IMPLICIT IN SCHEEL'S LETTER AND CLEAR FROM THE REPORTING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING THAT THE EC DOES NOT EXPECT AND WOULD REACT NEGATIVELY TO NEGOTIATING UNDER PUBLIC THREAT OF RETALIATION. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE DECISION TO NEGOTIATE A 24.6 SETTLEMENT WITH THE US WAS THE ONE POSITIVE OUTCOME OF AN OTHERWISE DIVISIVE EC COUNCIL

MEETING.

WE AGREE WITH EBERLE THAT WE SHOULD KEEP THE PRESSURE ON FOR THE PROMPT SETTLEMENT ENVISAGED IN SCHEEL'S LETTER AND WOULD, THEREFORE, PROPOSE THAT HE TELL THE EUROPEANS THAT PROMPT SETTLEMENT IS NEEDED IF WE ARE TO AVOID INITIATING PUBLIC PROCEEDINGS LEADING TO RETALIATION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT IN BRUSSELS BETWEEN OUR NEGOTIATOR AND THE EC TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS NEXT WEEK.

WE WILL ASSUME THAT THIS APPROACH MEETS YOUR APPROVAL UNLESS WE HEAR OTHERWISE BEFORE THE MEETING. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING CHAIRMAN, AGREEMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, CABINET MEETINGS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, REPRISALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE068527
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ACALBRECHT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740076-0495
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740465/aaaachkz.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GATT ARTICLE 24.6 NEGOTIATIONS WITH EC FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE ACTING SECRETARY & SCOWCROFT
TAGS: PFOR, US, EEC, GATT, (SHULTZ, GEORGE P), (EBERLE, BILL)
To: ACAPULCO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005